APHIS Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Pest Detection and Management Programs – Program Update

Program: *Phytophthora ramorum*   Date: April 9, 2004

The fungus-like pathogen that causes sudden oak death, *Phytophthora ramorum*, has been detected in several nurseries that received plants from the large California wholesale facility where it was recently found. Laboratory confirmed positive samples from 9 locations in California, 3 in Florida, 2 in Washington State, 6 in Oregon, 5 in Georgia, 10 in Louisiana and 1 in Virginia were identified. Two additional samples from nurseries in Washington have also tested positive but there is no apparent direct link to the California wholesaler.

Potentially infected host and associated host plants (see the complete list at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod/aphislist22mar04.pdf) at these facilities are being held under the USDA Confirmed Positive Nursery Protocol. The protocol requires destruction of the infected block of plants and a buffer area, as well as ongoing surveillance of other plants in buffer zone, along with additional measures to prevent the spread of the pathogen.

Nationally, the more than 1200 establishments that received material from the California wholesaler have been contacted. If they still had plants, Federal and State holds were placed on the suspect plants. Sampling of the suspect plants is underway. Also, identification of additional nurseries that may have received plants sold by these establishments is in progress.

Fifteen states have promulgated their own regulations to prevent the movement of PPQ regulated plants and, in some cases, other California-origin plants into their states. Alabama, Utah and Montana are also restricting movement of plants from WA and OR.

A national Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) to determine if *P. ramorum* is causing disease symptoms on hosts and associated hosts in other parts of the country is underway. USDA distributed the final protocol for the program to State departments of agriculture this week.